

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-30, 41, and 42, and objected to claims 2 and 31 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but containing allowable subject matter. By this paper, Applicants have canceled claims 2, 31, 41, and 42, and have amended claims 1 and 16. As such, claims 1 and 3-30 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Additionally, claims 2 and 31 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claims 1 and 16 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 31. As such, Applicants believe that the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 16, as well as cancellation of claims 2, 31, 41, and 42 have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Andrews et al., U.S. Patent No. 1,560,589 (hereinafter “Andrews”). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5-9, 13, 18-20, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Henrie, U.S. Patent No. 4,170,455 (hereinafter “Henrie”).

Furthermore, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-30, 41, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Henrie in view of Wagner et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,101,095 (hereinafter “Wagner”).

While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections set forth above, in light of the indicated allowable subject matter by the Examiner, Applicants have rewritten independent claims 1 and 16 to include the allowable subject matter recited in dependent claims 2 and 31, respectively. Applicants reserve the right to re-file the un-amended versions of independent claims 1 and 16, canceled independent claims 41 and 42, and all claims depending therefrom in a continuing application.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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